

ABSTRACT

[0055] An over-the-needle catheter assembly includes a tube made of a flexible, biocompatible material. The tube has a proximal portion, a distal portion and a catheter tip positioned on the distal portion remote from the proximal portion. A lumen extends through the tube, substantially co-axially with the tube, from the proximal portion, through the distal portion and through to the catheter tip. The lumen cross-section at the proximal portion is larger than the cross-section at the distal portion. A shoulder is disposed in the lumen between the distal portion and the proximate portion. A catheter land, having a predetermined length, is defined as the portion of the lumen disposed in the distal portion of the tube between the shoulder and the distal end. A needle is disposed in the lumen and has a substantially circular cross-section. A discontinuity is located on the needle at a predetermined position with respect to the needle tip. The distance between the distal edge of the discontinuity and the needle tip is substantially equal to the length of the catheter land. The discontinuity is sized such that it fits within the lumen at the proximal portion but does not fit within the lumen at the distal portion.

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